

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 720

By Brown

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the members of the
Association of African American Museums for
laudable service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those organizations whose members, through their extraordinary efforts, have improved the quality of life for the citizens of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy organization is the Association of African American Museums, whose members have worked assiduously to preserve and promote museums of African American history which serve as the valuable link between the oft-remembered past and the much-anticipated future; and

WHEREAS, the Association of African American Museums is a nonprofit membership organization serving the interests and needs of black museums and cultural institutions and black museum professionals throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Association was created to foster, protect, promote, and celebrate African and African American cultural heritage through the support of the needs of black museums and cultural institutions; established as the single representative and principal voice of the African American museum movement, the Association seeks to strengthen and advocate

on behalf of the interests and individuals committed to the preservation of African-derived cultures; and

WHEREAS, to this end and led by National President Bill Gwaltney, the Association of African American Museums introduces African American museums to institutions and organizations such as the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Museum Trustee Association, the American Association for State and Local History, and the National Park Service and to diverse funding sources, including corporations, foundations, and governmental granting agencies, provides meaningful, focused, and affordable training opportunities for staff, trustees, and volunteers at the Annual Conference, highlights new projects and new museums, and provides both recognition of existing superb leadership and opportunities for leadership development; and

WHEREAS, ever seeking to better serve the public and patrons of the discipline of history, the Association is currently working on the development of a strategic plan, the enhancement of member benefits, the completion of member satisfaction surveys, the fostering of positive governmental relations, the development of funds and corporate partnerships, and the establishment of the Sankofa Institute, which would provide training and problem-solving skills for museum executive staff members and museum board members; and

WHEREAS, this year's conference, to be held in Chattanooga from August 20 through August 23, will focus on the theme "Reshaping the Cultural Landscape of American History" and will include presentations by Representative Jesse Jackson, Jr., David Driscoll, and Asa Hilliard; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Association of African American Museums epitomize the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of true Tennesseans, and we are proud to host this outstanding assembly of museum professionals and patrons; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud the members of the Association of African American Museums for

their dedication to excellence in the discipline and artistry of historical preservation and presentation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend the members of the Association of African American Museums for their meritorious service to the State of Tennessee and extend to them our best wishes for the organization's every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.